CLAIMS

1. A process for the preparation of a cell culture support comprising the step of coating a microcarrier bead with gelatine or gelatine-like protein, said gelatine or gelatine-like protein having a molecular weight of about 40 kDa to about 200 kDa.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the microcarrier bead is a non-porous bead.

3. A process according to claim 1, wherein the microcarrier bead is a porous bead.

4. A process according to claim 3, wherein the gelatine or gelatine-like protein has a molecular weight of more than 60 kDa, preferably more than 70 kDa.

5. A process according to claim 1-4, wherein the gelatine or gelatine-like protein has a molecular weight of less than about 150 kDa, preferably less than 100 kDa.

6. A process according to any of claims 1-5, further comprising the step of immobilising the gelatine or gelatine-like protein on the microcarrier.

7. A process according to any of claims 1-6, wherein more than 75%, preferably more than 85%, more preferably more than 95% of the gelatine or gelatine-like protein has the same molecular weight.

8. A process according to any of claims 1-7, wherein the gelatine or gelatine-like protein is recombinantly produced.

9. A process according to any of claims 1-8, wherein the gelatine or gelatine-like protein comprises less than 5% hydroxyproline residues, most preferably less than 1%.

10. A process according to any of claims 1-9, wherein the gelatine or gelatine-like protein has a net positive charge at pH 7-7.5.

11. A cell support, consisting of microbeads having a size of between 50 and 500 μm, coated with a gelatin-like protein consisting for at least 95% of Gly-Xaa-Yaa triplets and containing at least 15% of proline residues and less than 5% of hydroxyproline residues, the molecular weight distribution of the protein showing a maximum between 40 kDa and 200 kDa, at least 75% of the protein molecules having a molecular weight within 2% of the maximum.